

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 044848

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. CYPRUS TALKS: GREEK CYPRIOTS SKEPTICAL OF TURKISH
INTENTIONS

GREEK CYPRIOT FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTOPHIDES, COMMENTING
ON THE VIENNA TALKS TO AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD FEBRUARY 23,
EXPRESSED:

--RELIEF THAT UNSYG WALDHEIM WAS ABLE TO EXTRACT ENOUGH
TO KEEP THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS ALIVE;

--SKEPTICISM THAT THE TURKS WOULD FULFILL THEIR PROMISE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 044848

TO COME UP WITH A FIRM POSITION ON TERRITORY WITHIN THE

SPECIFIED SIX WEEKS. (CONFIDENTIAL) NICOSIA 479, 2/24.)

2. ARGENTINA: MRS. PERON REFUSES TO YIELD

EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES REPORTS THAT MRS. PERON WAS UNYIELDING IN HER MEETING WITH A TEN-MEMBER PERONIST DELEGATION FEBRUARY 23. THE KEY QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER HER UNRESPONSIVENESS WILL SWING OVER ENOUGH PERONISTS IN CONGRESS SO THAT

THE CHAMBER'S MOVE TO DECLARE HER INCOMPETENT CAN GO AHEAD WHEN IT RECONVENES FEBRUARY 25. EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE FEBRUARY 23 MEETING:

--FRACTURED THE PERONIST PARTY, WITH ULTRA-VERTICALS LOYAL TO MRS. PERON RESIGNING FROM THE PARTY COUNCIL; AND

--FURTHER IRRITATED THE MILITARY, WHO SEE MRS. PERON'S REFUSAL TO RESIGN AS A SLAP AT THEIR OWN ROLE AS DEFENDERS OF THE COUNTRY AGAINST SUBVERSION.

EMBASSY COMMENT: MRS. PERON'S GOVERNMENT NOW APPEARS TO BE IN A BLIND ALLEY. APART FROM THE INTRA-PARTY STRUGGLE, WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE REACHED THE POINT OF NO RETURN, THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTRADICTIONARY STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS RUDDERLESS. (CONFIDENTIAL) BUENOS AIRES 1241, 2/24.)

3. SOVIET MIGS FOR SUDAN NETTLE CHINESE

THE BRITISH DEFENSE ATTACHE CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY KHARTOUM THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE AGREED TO SUPPLY TWELVE NEW MIG-17'S TO THE SUDAN, WHICH IN THE PAST HAS USED THE CHINESE VERSION OF THE AIRCRAFT. CHINESE TECHNICIANS AT THE WADI SAYDNA MILITARY AIRFIELD REPORTEDLY WALKED OFF THE JOB ON LEARNING OF THE SOVIET GIFT, RETURNING ONLY AFTER THE PERSONAL INTERVENTION OF THE PRC AMBASSADOR. (SECRET) KHARTOUM 545, 2/24.) KISSINGER

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